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Join the Movement



We are proud to publish this 2021 Progress Report for South Dakota ACEs and Resiliency Program.

The program is licensed by the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment and delivered by Children's Home Society of South Dakota's Prevention and Training team.

In three short years, this program has taken root and spread across the state, as the partners envisioned. From January 2018, through December 2020, 160 presenters and more than 14,000 South Dakotans have received ACEs and Resiliency Training.

Prevention is difficult to quantify, since we cannot measure what has been prevented. We do know from our trainings that more and more people across the state understand ACEs and child abuse.

# Who We Are

#### **Program Partners**

#### **Center for Prevention of Child Maltreatment**

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## Children's Home Society of South Dakota

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If you are interested in becoming part of the movement to end child maltreatment in South Dakota, please visit **sdcpm.com**.



# **Beliefs**

ACEs are one of the greatest determinants of lifelong health.

We champion the understanding of ACEs and their effects as a unifying framework for multisector action.

ACE concepts, including the principles and practical skills of trauma informed care, can be applied directly to community building processes, adults' lives, and daily decision-making.

Understanding one's own personal trauma and its lasting effects is not only empowering but also can make critical differences in everyday life.

Health improvements are more likely to succeed when sectors, disciplines, lay people and professionals are working with a common language, pulling in the same direction, and delivering a collective impact.

ACEs education serves as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and innovation, and is not prescriptive about what people should do with the science.

People will act upon the information they find meaningful and important in the context of their own lives and communities.

We recognize and respect the complexity and variety of experiences, perspectives, and cultural views individuals bring to this body of scientific information.

Cumulative experience matters, especially during early developmental years when a biological foundation for perception is built.

We seek to build awareness of the interrelationships between individuals and the social, physical, political, and economic environments in which they live and work.

We seek to support educational venues in providing physically, psychologically, socially and morally safe learning environments.

We provide open access to diverse audiences, including lay people and professionals with interest in the subject matter.

We cultivate transformational change not just incremental improvement.

# Safety and Inclusion Statement

Curiosity: We all have different strengths. Be open to learning from those around you.

Listen: Commitment by all to listen to others' viewpoints. Be aware of our own defensiveness.

**Openness:** Willingness to address issues as they arise.

Generosity of Thought: When we hear things that do not resonate well with us, be willing to seek first to understand. Ask for clarification. Assume everyone is doing the best they can in the moment.

# What are ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are significant childhood traumas which can result in actual changes to brain development.

#### **ACEs MAY INCLUDE:**

#### **ABUSE**







**Emotional** 

**NEGLECT** 





**Emotional** 

#### **HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION**







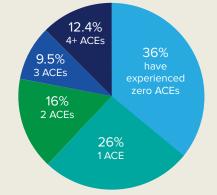




Substance

Divorce

# ACEs are common:







#### Goal A

Statistics and Benchmarking

#### Goal B

Public, Private and Tribal Health

#### Goal C

Mandatory Reporters

## Goal D

Criminal Justice and Child Protection Services Response

#### Goal E

Public Awareness

#### Goal F

Infrastructure

# History

In 2014, through SDCL2-6-31, Jolene's Law Task Force was charged to study the prevalence and impact of child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

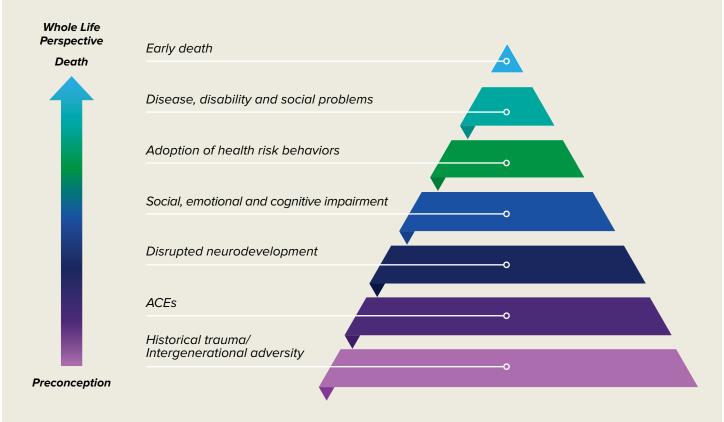
Task force membership represented the executive and legislative branches of state government, along with a medical doctor specializing in child sexual abuse, a state's attorney, professionals from Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), counselors, law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Native community.

The Task Force met during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 interim legislative sessions. Based on its 2016 efforts, the Task Force outlined six major goals and 48 supporting objectives that address a comprehensive approach towards ending child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

Although the focus of this plan is child sexual abuse, the objectives will increase the state's capacity to address all forms of child maltreatment. The plan focuses on the child, family, and professionals that surround the child and family.

The Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment (CPCM) at the University of South Dakota (USD) was formed in 2017. It is the driving force behind coordination of Jolene's Law Task Force's 10-year strategic plan and will work to remove barriers to completing objectives.

# How do ACEs Affect Us?



Life Expectancy: People with 6 or more ACEs die nearly 20 years earlier on average than those without ACEs.

# **ACE Interface Implementation**

In January 2018, Children's Home Society of South Dakota and CPCM brought a new curriculum to South Dakota.

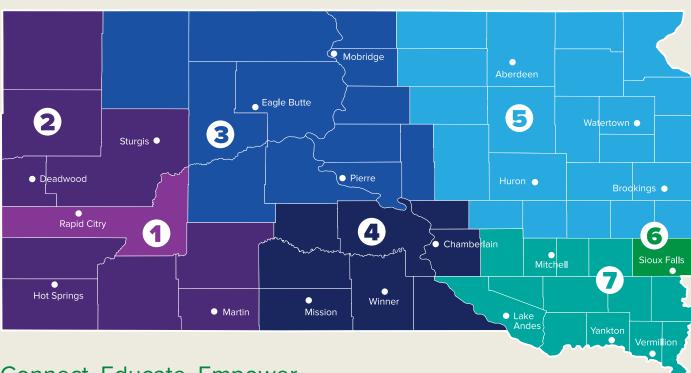
Co-authored by ACE Interface partners Dr. Robert Anda, Co-Principal Investigator of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, and Laura Porter, Experienced Leader of Community-based and Policy-level Application of ACE-Related Science, the curriculum includes information across three domains: Neuroscience, the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study and Resilience.

Twenty-six professionals from multiple sectors across the state were selected to participate in a training and learning cohort focused on building self-healing communities. Participants spent two days with Dr. Robert Anda, Laura Porter and Kathy Adams learning about the impacts of trauma, the ACE study, and how to support positive change within a community.

Since January 2018, we have presented this information to over 14,000 South Dakotans and trained 160 presenters. Communities that have heard this information are launching a new social movement—one with the power to transform the future of the public's health.

# MASTER TRAINERS AND PRESENTERS

Trainer Locations (Currently Active)



# Connect. Educate. Empower.

Who was chosen to receive ACEs training? Our initial criteria called us to review the networks or areas of influence of those applicants. It was also important to consider which applicants would possess the passion for creating sustainable conversations and connections.

We have continued using this perspective as we receive applications from across the state. Today we look for the applicant's willingness to be part of something bigger than themselves. It's also key to include participant diversity in terms of disciplines, geographic locations, cultural backgrounds, language, and lived experience. Looking ahead, we seek those representing groups or locations that do not yet have a voice at the table.

- 1 Pennington County: 42
- 2 Other Western SD: 22
- 3 North Central SD Count: 7
- 4 South Central SD Count: 12
- 5 North East SD: 13
- 6 Minnehaha County: 15
- South East SD: 14

Total active trainers: 114
Total trained since 2018: 160

# Sioux Empire United Way

This grant supported ACE Interface trainings in Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha and Turner Counties to educate community members on how ACEs impact not only our children, but also our workforce, law enforcement, medical services and more. Although, 104 training events goal was not met, the partnership from this grant created opportunities for roughly 30 community trainings (in addition to other requested agency trainings) that were provided free of charge to the public.

The Department
of Education
endorses CHS
as a partner
in providing
evidence-based
programming.

# SD Department of Education

In 2018, the SD Department of Education piloted a trauma informed school initiative with:

- Bridgewater-Emery
   Elementary, Middle and
   High School partnering
   with Southeastern Behavioral
   Health Care
- Douglas Middle School partnering with Behavior Management Systems and Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
- Wagner Community School (K-8) and Wagner High School partnering with Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services
- Whittier Middle School in the Sioux Falls School District partnering with Southeastern Behavioral Health Care

In 2019, the Department of Education partnered with CPCM to offer grant supplements for trainers to offer ACE Interface and Enough Abuse curriculum in schools across South Dakota. As part of this ongoing partnership, we have provided 35 additional trainings to schools across the state, with 29 of those being specific to ACEs and trauma informed care.







ACEs affect every aspect of our lives—as individuals, families and communities. That's why we've worked to spread awareness of ACEs and resiliency through numerous sectors and settings. They include the following:

# Preschool/Daycare/ Early Childhood Programs

Since the ACEs and Resiliency program began, CHS has provided 24 training events and four conferences, reaching 782 adults in preschool/daycare/early childhood education programs. Trauma informed staff can provide improved care and learning to children with ACEs and are more aware of their own ACEs and possible triggers as well. Highlights include:

Ten presentations to 290 professionals at **Head Start programs** in Northeast South Dakota, Badlands, Crow Creek, South Dakota Head Start Association, South Central South Dakota

Four state and regional
early childhood education
conference presentations reaching
216 professionals

Four presentations to day care providers in Sioux Falls, including Baan Dek, His Ark, Embe and Discovery Learning Center

# After School Care

SDAR trainers gave 20 presentations at **after school care** facilities, held three conferences and reached 438 individuals. Examples included:

#### Sioux Falls Multi-Cultural Center

In 2019, we presented a three-part training for all staff. The following year, we trained the director and assistant director as ACEs trainers, so they can continue to implement ACEs training on an ongoing basis.

#### **Afterschool Network**

The Executive Director of the Afterschool Network was trained as a presenter with the first cohort trained by Master Trainers in 2018. The organization then partnered with CHS to create content for a trauma informed theme to use on the first day of its three-day virtual conference. Together, we were able to secure Dr. Robert Anda, Co-Principal Investigator of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, as the conference keynote speaker, and provide many afterschool care professionals and leaders with information on ACEs, resiliency, selfcare and the principles of trauma informed care.

# Military

Ellsworth Air Force Base has a strong partnership in connecting airmen and families to continued education. In 2020, the Sexual Assault Response Program gathered 15 individuals from a variety of units to become trained as ACEs presenters. They are hoping to use the diversity of trainers to incorporate more trauma informed education for those they serve.



"Thank you so very much for your great help in bringing trauma informed care to life for us this morning! I've received so many wonderful comments. One gal asked for the recording links so she could share it with all of her co-workers and boss! The accolades just keep coming in!"

KARLA JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

**COVID Response:** Early in 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak sent the team scrambling to provide previously scheduled trainings and to continue trainings throughout the year. While presenting via Zoom may be less impactful than in person, the team found a greater number of people could be trained, since there was no need for travel.

# COMMUNITY **CHAMPIONS** CONT.

# Workforce

The Career Learning Center of the Black Hills piloted a grant to help create trauma informed workplaces for high crisis employees. The tremendous response prompted the center to connect with CHS and SDAR Master Trainer Tracey Palacek of Tracey Palacek Counseling to provide education to area businesses.

The team worked with **Elevate** Rapid City, an economic development organization, to host three mini lunch and learn events to provide information and boost attendance at an upcoming conference. Interest was so great that the organization requested support for these collaborative presentations from the South Dakota Department of Labor.

"Helping employers understand how Adverse Childhood Experiences impact an individual in the workplace and some of the strategies to support these employees is an approach with promising positive results for both the employer and the employee."

#### **GLORIA PLUIMER,**

DIRECTOR, CAREER LEARNING CENTER OF THE BLACK HILLS, RAPID CITY

# K-12 Education

The team provided more than 108 training events and 11 conference presentations, reaching 5,255 individuals involved in K-12 education statewide. More than 20 teachers became trainers or master trainers. A few examples from this sector include the following:

In 2019, the Custer School District made a commitment to bring trauma informed awareness into all of its schools. The district partnered with CHS and the South Dakota Education Association to ensure that teachers were getting practical application tools, in addition to foundational ACEs and trauma informed information. We trained teachers at all grade levels within the Custer and Hermosa schools—representing a remarkable commitment to change.

The South Dakota Education **Association** trained two staff members in 2018 and sponsored ACEs training for the South Dakota Legislature in 2020.

In the Todd County School District, all teachers became ACEs trainers.

The South Dakota Department of Education includes ACEs and Resiliency training as an approved part of Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education), a program being piloted in specific schools around the state.

# **Higher Education**

Within South Dakota's post-secondary institutions, we have held 55 events. reaching 1,429 students. These include:

Augustana University: 2 events reaching 66 students.

Black Hills State University: 11 events reaching 178 students in Health Services Sociology, Case Management and Social Problems courses.

Mitchell Technical Institute: 3 events reaching 48 students.

Northern State University: 1 event reaching 11 students.

South Dakota State University (SDSU): 8 events reaching 200 students in Human Development and Family Studies, Student Health, Trauma and Counseling classes. Additionally, SDSU has one Master Trainer on staff.

#### University of South Dakota (USD):

28 events reaching 929 students in programs and classes such as Nursing, Public Health, Social Work, Addiction Counseling and Prevention, Mental Health, Education and the Sanford School of Medicine. USD has two Master Trainers on staff.

Also at USD. Child and Adult Advocacy Studies (CAASt) certificate program works with CPCM to offer continuing education trainings that increase universal knowledge and trauma informed care among health and human services professionals.

University Center (now the USD Community College for Sioux Falls): 11 events reaching 178 students.

# Criminal Justice **System**

Providing training to both staff and incarcerated individuals helps establish a common language and system-wide understanding. Our justice system involvement has included 54 training events for 642 people, including professionals, incarcerated people and 119 justiceimpacted youth.

The majority of trainings within the criminal justice system have taken place in Rapid City, including the Pennington County sheriff's and state's attorney offices, Rapid City Police Department and Rapid City Juvenile Services Center. In addition:

At the South Dakota Women's Prison, training was provided to more than 20 staff, including leadership and senior corrections officers, and more than 40 currently incarcerated women as part of a conference on domestic violence.

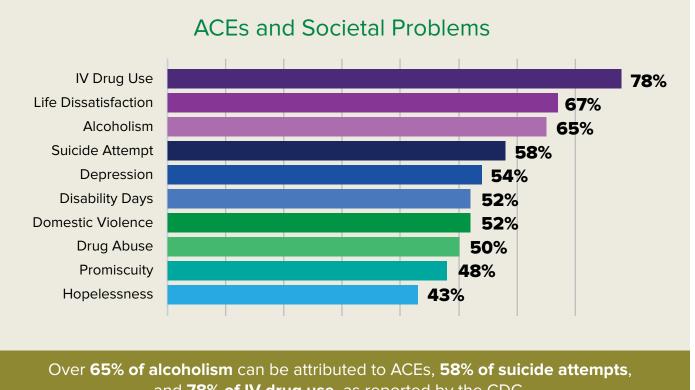
More than 80 incarcerated men were trained at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD.

Training is provided to individuals transitioning from incarceration back to community through staff training at Glory House in Sioux Falls and individuals participating in the Intermediate Correctional Intervention Program through LSS Re-Entry Services. We also trained a Master Trainer who staffs the LSS Re-Entry Services at the Women's Prison.

# **Healing Healers**

While not strictly ACEs and Resiliency training, our Healing Healers trainings provide a much-needed next step for caregivers who work with people who may have high ACE scores (and who might have high ACE scores themselves). Vicarious trauma can be retraumatizing and even professionals with the best boundaries can become overwhelmed by their clients' needs and behaviors. We provide these trainings to professionals working with:

- Adult services
- · Domestic violence shelters and programs
- Foster care/child protection family services
- Residential care programs
- · Healthcare-medical and behavioral
- Other special populations



and 78% of IV drug use, as reported by the CDC.



# South Dakota **SNAPSHOT**

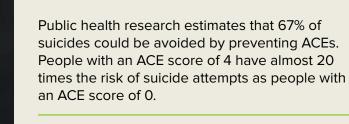
The percent of South Dakotans reporting at least 1 ACE went up from 46% in 2017 to 49% in 2018.

The percent of South Dakotans reporting 5 or more ACEs rose from 5% in 2017 to 9% in 2018.

Females exhibit a significantly higher prevalence of having faced at least 5 ACEs more than males.

American Indians and Latinos show a significantly higher prevalence of having faced at least 5 ACEs than whites.

in South Dakota



Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death in SD, but is the second leading cause among ages 15 to 34 as of 2019.

With 168 suicides, SD had the 19th highest suicide rate in the U.S. in 2018 (crude rate).

- SD = 19.0 per 100,000 population
- US = 14.8 per 100,000 population

There were 185 suicides in 2019 in SD.

78 percent of SD suicides were male and 22 percent were female, 2010-2019.

SD American Indian suicide rate is 2.4 times higher than SD white suicide rate for 2010-2019.

# Strategic Planning

"The ACEs Study findings represent a paradigm shift in human understanding of the origins of physical, social, mental, and societal health and wellbeing. We now know that leading causes of disease and disability, learning and productivity problems, and early death have their roots in the cumulative neurodevelopmental impacts of ACEs."\*

Through the ACEs and
Resiliency program, CHS
and CPCM are shepherding
that paradigm shift in
South Dakota. With 14,000
people trained, the ACEs
movement is spreading
throughout the state.
The demand for trainings
continues to increase.

In any great public health discovery the most important actions in the first decades are:

To tell everyone – share the findings effectively and with fidelity, and

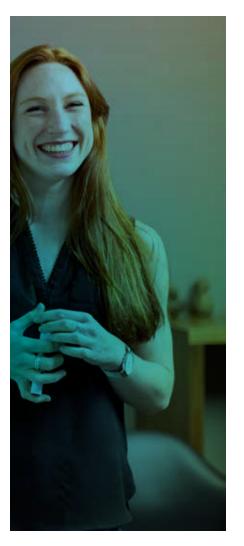
To change ourselves and promote changes within our spheres of influence.

Over the past three years, we have focused on building grassroots momentum. We have reached out to multiple disciplines, service sectors and diverse communities across the state to train individuals as presenters and we've asked them to start by training their own personal and professional networks.

\*aceinterface.com/about.html

We've grown the community of presenters to over 100 active trainers across the state. At the same time, we've worked to firm up the infrastructure of the program, to ensure that participants feel a sense of belonging to the movement and support in the work they are doing within their respective communities.

As we look forward with hope of reaching and teaching every single South Dakotan about the ACEs concept, we are adding to the grassroots movement with a three-pronged, targeted approach, focusing on regions, organizations and sectors.



#### By Region

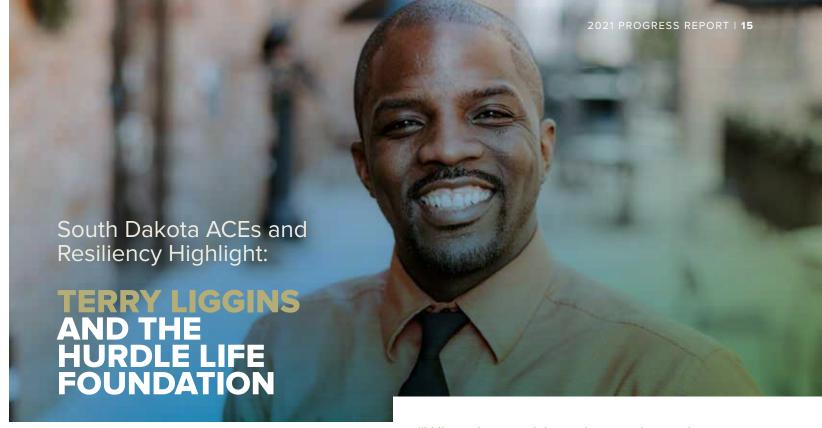
CHS will establish trainer cohorts in each of the seven SD Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Regions. Ideally, cohorts will consist of at least four trainers at the Specialized or Master level along with 12-20 newer presenters.

#### By Organization

Program participants will seek to encourage organizations, particularly those organizations which provide services to youth or populations most affected by ACEs, to have at least two staff identified to become trained Organizational Presenters. These participants will be trained specifically to meet the needs of their organizations to ensure annual and ongoing training on ACEs material to their colleagues.

#### By Sector

CPCM will identify ways to include the SDAR program, where appropriate, in its work with statewide stakeholders to ensure the SDAR curriculum is included for field training for all stakeholder disciplines including but not limited to teachers, Youth Serving Organizations, law enforcement, legal community, health care professionals, mental health clinicians and child care providers. Program partners will work together to ensure that the SDAR program and curriculum are represented on statewide community boards and task forces.



The life of Terry Liggins, 35, of Sioux Falls, SD, is the kind of compelling story that makes a great movie. Originally from North Omaha, Liggins succeeded despite growing up in a tough environment.

He became a first-generation college student on a track and field scholarship at USD. Flourishing in a higher education setting, Liggins was elected student body president and won the 60-meter hurdle national championship at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in 2008. Liggins graduated with a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and went on to earn a master's in Public Administration, Nonprofit.

A poor choice landed Liggins in federal prison. After his release in 2016, he began working with an addiction recovery coach who brought up the topic of trauma. "I learned that some of my experiences in childhood were traumatic events," he says. In his neighborhood, there were drugs, gangs and violence; he survived his first drive-by shooting at age six; his younger brother was killed in a drive-by shooting. But Liggins also experienced trauma at home.

Liggins accepted the invitation to apply to the SDAR Master Trainer cohort in December 2017. He soon discovered how ACEs had affected his own journey. "I learned that I had six ACEs," he says. "It gave me a clarity about my own upbringing and thereby an understanding of my behaviors, beliefs and mindset."

"When I was able to learn about the neuroscience, it allowed me to be more comfortable with myself and who I had become," says Liggins. "It also gave me the knowledge that hurt people hurt people. I developed a compassion and an empathy for my mom and dad and I was able to forgive them, and to not be bitter and blaming."

Liggins had originally planned to go into a helping profession. 
"I wanted to be like the people who helped my family when I was young," he says. Combining this ambition with his new understanding of ACEs and resiliency, he founded The Hurdle Life Foundation, a nonprofit based on the core belief that a trauma informed community is in the best interest of everyone.

The foundation works with at-risk youth from 11-17 and vulnerable adults, providing trauma informed support through mentorship, inspiration and education—and helping them clear life's hurdles, as Liggins has done.

The SDAR training offered Liggins the tools he needed to understand himself first—and to then transform lives by in turn helping people understand ACEs and build resiliency.



# ON TARGET FOR TOMORROW

We are confident that adding a targeted approach while continuing to support and foster the grassroots movement of our network of participant will enable delivery of ACEs education to diverse communities—with fidelity to science and concepts—in every community in South Dakota.

#### **Resilient Communities**

Increasing the capacity to prevent and respond to child maltreatment can only be realized at a community level.

One of CPCM's primary strategies is to provide a Resilient Communities: South Dakota toolkit. This is a framework for community coalitions to work together to surround families and children with the resources they need to heal and thrive.

The Resilient Communities model pulls in the training, process and policies developed in the 10-year plan into a comprehensive process. The strategies are designed to take into account challenges faced in rural South Dakota and to offer unique, community-based solutions which provide victims of violence safe, consistent and meaningful response and are flexible to the needs of each community. CPCM staff and partners are available to provide technical assistance to community coalitions.

# Resilient Community Pilot: Brookings County, SD

When the Brookings School District reviewed data it had been gathering since the 1990s, it found concerning trends of depression and suicidal thoughts among children and youth. The district teamed up with the Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program, Avera Behavioral Health and the Brookings Area United Way to form Social NET Works, a collaborative group focused on building a resilient community.

Participants have met for more than a year, facilitating meetings with representatives from municipal leaders, law enforcement, business leaders, counseling, educators, childcare workers, parents and more—bringing everyone to the table to walk through the Resilient Communities framework.

As the group identifies strengths and weaknesses, and gains more buy-in, sectors throughout the community will be able to create a coordinated effort to build resiliency. Participants caution that it's an ongoing process, requiring an investment of time and resources to build skills and capabilities.

The Brookings pilot will eventually be highlighted on a website that other communities can access for information and best practices.



